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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Infinite Spirit, Creator of Heaven and Earth, the sea, and all that lives in it, thank You for the gift of another day. We praise You that You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Remind us of the foolishness of seeking security apart from You.

Bless our lawmakers. Protect them in their work as You give them Your peace. Be for them a light in the darkness and a shelter from life's storms. Lord, give them the wisdom to make decisions that will bring glory and honor to Your Name.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN, a Sen-

ator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BOOZMAN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, like millions of people across the country, I watched the hearing yesterday with a mix of so many strong emotions.

First, I watched Dr. Ford with tears in my eyes. She was so brave, so compelling, so real. The memories that she recounted—the memories that she will never forget—were heartbreaking: the living room, the stairs, the bedroom, the music turned up loud, the bed,

Brett Kavanaugh drunk and on top of her, the feeling she had when he covered her mouth to stop her from screaming, the raucous laughter between Brett Kavanaugh and Mark Judge.

She remembered the way she felt it then and told it now: two boys laughing and having a good time while a scared 15-year-old girl lay pinned down on a bed, worried that she may die; the bathroom, listening for Brett and Mark to leave, hearing them bounce off the walls as they went back downstairs; leaving the house; the sense of relief that she escaped; and something anyone who has been a 15-year-old girl can understand, not wanting to tell her parents that she had been at a house with no adults, older boys, and beer. It was gutting.

Dr. Ford spoke for herself, but she was channeling the voice of millions of women and survivors across the country who are too often ignored, interrupted, bullied, or swept aside.

She was an inspiration, and I hope every one of my colleagues watched her speak and answer questions. She made it clear she was not there because she wanted to be but because she felt she had to be. She shared her story not because she wanted to create a spectacle or embarrass anyone but because she felt it was her civic duty to share what she knew about Judge Kavanaugh with the people making the decision about whether or not he should be on our Nation's highest Court.

The Republicans on that committee were too afraid to ask her anything themselves, but she did an amazing job keeping her composure under cross-examination by the prosecutor Republicans hired to question Dr. Ford on their behalf, and Dr. Ford made it clear over and over, politely but firmly, that she welcomed an investigation. She opened up herself to questions and scrutiny. She took a polygraph.

She remembered some details that further investigation could help expand

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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